IAP20 Rec'd ?CT/PTO 27 JUL 2006

S/N Filed Herewith PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

CHENG et al.

Examiner:

Unknown

Serial No.:

Filed Herewith

Group Art Unit:

Unknown

Filed:

July 27, 2006

Docket No.:

03164.0204USWO

Title:

SOLVENT EXTRACTION PROCESS FOR SEPARATING COBALT

AND/OR MANGANESE FROM IMPURITIES IN LEACH SOLUTIONS

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV 840130221 US

Date of Deposit: July 27, 2006

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

By: Name ohn Jurkers

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Mail Stop PCT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. Enclosed for the Examiner's information is a copy of the International Search Report. At least some of the references were recently cited in an International Search Report mailed February 24, 2005.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

A copy of any foreign patent document or "Other Document" listed on the Form 1449 is enclosed, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2). Because this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. Patents and U.S. patent publications listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are not provided.

19/587648 AP20 Rec'd FGT/FTQ 27 JUL 2006

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

23552
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

P.O. Box 2903

Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903

(612)332.5300

Dated: July 27, 2006

By: Brian H. Batzli

Reg. No.: 32,960

BHB/mkc

Date Mailed: July 27, 2006

iAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO-27 JUL 2006

FORM 1449*

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Docket Number: 03164.0204USWO

Application Number 6 48

IN AN APPLICATION
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant: CHENG et al.

Filing Date: July 27, 2006

Group Art Unit: Unknown

| | | Į | U.S. PATENT DOCUMEN | TS | | | |
|---------------------|--|----------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|----|
| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE | |
| | 3,903,235 | 9/1975 | Cardwell et al. | | | | |
| | | | · | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | 1 | | | | |
| · | | | | | | | |
| ···· | | | | | | | |
| | | + | • | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | - | |
| | 1 | FOI | REIGN PATENT DOCUN | IENTS | | | |
| ··· | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
| | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | 2 109 357 A | 6/1983 | Great Britain | | | | |
| | 1 223 242 | 6/1987 | Canada | | | | |
| | 98/14623 | 4/1998 | WIPO | | | | |
| | 02/22896 A1 | | WIPO | | | | |
| | OTHER | DOCUMENT | S (Including Author, Title, | Date, Pertinent I | Pages, Etc.) | _ | |
| | Derwent Abstract Accession No. 84-109393/18, Class E31, J01, M25, ES 8401143 A, (Schortmann P C), 16 February 1984, Abstract | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | - |

23552
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.